

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

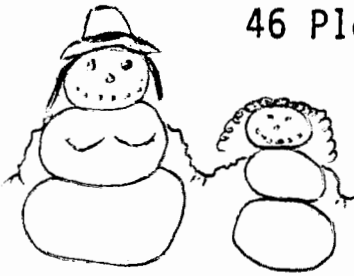
Newsletter of the Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

1st Floor - Wheelchair Accessible

**FEB '88**



## HEALTH CARE FOR ALL THE NAMES PROJECT

In Massachusetts, 665,000 people, one-third of them children, have no health insurance. These individuals, mostly the working poor and their dependents will benefit from the Health Care For All proposal-as will disabled workers, parents with disabled children, low-income elderly, and parents on AFDC who can't get jobs without giving up their health care benefits.

The Health Care For All proposal guarantees access to affordable health care and basic health care services for all Massachusetts residents either through their employers or through a new state agency. A recent statewide poll showed 89% of people in Massachusetts feel that "access to health care is a basic human right to which everyone is entitled".

Despite this overwhelming support, the legislation lacks the leadership support it needs to pass through the House of Representatives. In December, a Health Care For All bill passed the State Senate but died in the House. You now have the opportunity to help pass this important Health Care legislation by writing to State Rep. Sandra Graham, to urge her to be a leader in the House on this issue. She has been supportive of the issue and now we need to ask her to make Health Care For All her priority this year. Her address is : Honorable Sandra Graham, State House, Rm. 156, Boston, MA, 02133.

The Names Project, also known as the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be coming to Boston the weekend of June 18.

If you saw the quilt at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, we know you'll agree that it is incredibly moving and a profound affirmation of life from our community, in the face of grief and loss.

The New England Chapter of the Names Project has recently formed to bring the quilt to Boston as part of its national tour. We believe that there is no better way to convey to people throughout New England the human tragedy of AIDS. We hope it will encourage people to begin to ask themselves critical questions about how this society can most effectively put its skills and resources to finding a cure, finding treatments and doing effective preventive education. We hope that the quilt will offer the gay community a chance to join in a communal process of healing and finding strength in ourselves and one another. We are convinced that the Names Project is a masterful piece of community art that all of New England should see.

Panels are continuously being added to the quilt. Our Quilting Committee is hosting a series of quilting bees throughout New England so people can gather together while making quilt panels. The Quilting Bee Calendar Hotline (617-451-9003) has a tape recorded message of the dates and locations of upcoming quilting bees.

If you would like to have a quilting bee in your home or at your organization, or if you would like more information about the Names Project, contact: Janet Woodcock 824-5007.



CENTER	HOURS
Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 8pm
Coffeehouse	8pm - Midnite
Saturday	11am - 2pm



# CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES

Over 700 lesbians and over 100 children (including lots of babies) converged at UMass-Boston harbor campus on January 30. Women and children came from all parts of Boston, all New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and Canada. We came to be with other lesbians who have, or are considering having, children, to be somewhere where we could talk openly, to get and give insights on how to cope with difficult situations, to make connections, to get information. For many of us, just being at a public place overflowing with lesbians and children was a tremendously validating experience.

A highlight of the day-long conference was the keynote speech by Angela Bowen, who is a black lesbian, feminist, writer, mother, foster mother, stepmother and grandmother. She talked of reasons not to choose to have children: motherhood is nothing like its portrayal in the media/society; the entrapment of parenting ("we're forever waiting for the other shoe to drop, all the while trying to have a life"); how being a parent consumes our energy ("do women of color, poor and disabled women have your support, or are you too busy having children?"), etc. She concluded that if she had it to do over, she would do it differently, helping to raise others' children rather than being a primary or biological parent.

The conference also included workshops on co-parenting, schools, childrens' feelings about having lesbian mothers, so your lover has a kid, raising male children, and pregnancy options. Caucuses were held for women of color, lesbians with disabilities, working class/poor women/women on welfare, and women living apart from their children. Many women commented on how well organized the conference was. Others lamented about too many choices (panels, workshops, caucuses, films) and fantasized about a two-day conference.

IF YOU ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE AND WANT TO JOIN IN EVALUATING IT OR WANT TO START PLANNING FUTURE EVENTS -- COME TO THE WOMEN'S CENTER ON:

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7 PM or call 354-8807 and leave a message.



## LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. We welcome single women, women in couples, and women in all stages of parenting, from considering motherhood to women with older children. Childcare is provided. Our next meeting will be Thursday March 10.

If you are interested in being on the coordinating committee or helping with the newsletter, please call Michelle at 648-1170 (w) or 641-3407 (h). Also, let us know if there is a topic you would like to hear discussed.

## TALK, TALK, TALK

### FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, 8-10pm

	<u>Upcoming Topics</u>
February 24	Raising Feminist Children
March 2	Feminism and the Primaries
9	Fathers
16	Addictive Relationships
23	Food
30	Monogamy and Nonmonogamy

This month there has been much warmth emanating from the Wednesday night Feminist Discussion Group. People have been gathering weekly for a combination of heated discussion, friendly conversation and good fun. However, after a year-and-a-half the group has reached a time of transition. Sherrie and Shannon are both leaving their positions as facilitators and group coordinators. They are sad to be leaving, but feel ready to channel their energies in other areas.

A new round of group facilitators is now forming. The group is always in need of your energy, enthusiasm and support. If you are interested in taking part in coordinating the group, please contact Judy at 354-8807. If you don't want to facilitate, please come anyway. There are always new people to meet and, as usual, the group welcomes all women.



## WELCOME LORI !!!

Lori Stewart is the new Outreach Coordinator at the Center. Lori graduated from college in June 1987, concentrating in Latin American Studies. She speaks fluent Spanish and has spent time working in Mexico, including volunteering at the Mexico City Women's Center. She also researched and wrote a proposal and training materials to make the Museum of Science more accessible to people with disabilities. Lori will be coordinating our efforts to reach out to more women, particularly women of color, women with disabilities, teenage women, older women and low income women.

Since Lori speaks Spanish, she is currently working towards making the Center more accessible and welcoming to Hispanic women (see accompanying article on the Outreach Committee).

We are very excited to have Lori working here. Already, we feel new energy and progress towards making the Center truly a place for all women.



## REACHING OUT

Within the last weeks, the Women's Center has begun to implement its Community Outreach plan. Our main goal is to focus attention on reaching out to disabled women, women of color, older/younger women, and mothers.

So far outreach has mainly consisted of planning, but several steps have already been taken. The recently-formed Newoman Committee will contact women who are new to the Center and encourage them to become active, answer their questions and refer them to other women at the Center who share their interests. We will also hold a monthly potluck for new women as a way for them to connect with other new women and Women's Center staff members and support/discussion groups.

The Outreach Committee has expanded its membership and is open to new members. Members can help with ongoing projects (expanding our list of groups to contact, helping with the anniversary party), get support and ideas for starting your own project, plan special events designed to create communication and discussion between women of different communities, etc. We are still formulating an agenda and are looking for more brilliant ideas. If you are interested in participating, the next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be on **March 22nd, 6-8pm**. New ideas are always welcome.

We have just finished translating the Women Center's brochure into Spanish and are currently creating one in large print and one in cassette form for visually impaired women.

We began networking with The Project on Women and Disability (housed in the Office of Handicapped Affairs in Boston) to let more disabled women know about the Women's Center and its services, and to strengthen the ties between the women's movement and the disabled people's movement. In the next few weeks we hope to begin networking with other women's groups as well.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

Come celebrate the 17th anniversary of the incorporation of the Center !!

The party will be held from 12-5pm on March 19th here at the Women's Center. We're planning a wonderful event with lots of delicious food, great live music by **Claudia Sheftel, Linda Sheets, Helen Kohane and Pat Humphries**, videos, children's events, open discussions on "Surviving Motherhood", "Separation-/Divorce", "Coming Out" and more... Childcare will be provided for the event. If you are planning to attend and have a special need (ASL or other), please inform us as early as possible.

We're still in the planning stages, so if you have any ideas or would like to help, don't hesitate (we need lots of help!). Call Lori or Judy at 354-8807 and/or come to a planning meeting on February 24th at 6pm at the Center.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

## LEARNING TOGETHER

The Women's School is offering classes and workshops for Spring '88. Come and wise up with your friends! All classes and workshops are held at the Women's Center-except for Rock Against Sexism, which will be at Femme Core Space, 464 Harrison Ave., South End, Boston.

### Herbal Medicine

Apr 2, 11-2pm; Apr 5, 7-9:30pm

### Age: Our Legacy & the Possibility

Apr 5, 12, 19 7-9pm

### Contemporary Women's Fiction

Starts Apr 5, 7-9pm (8-wk. course)

### Lesbian Culture Apr 6, 7-9pm

### Women & Disabilities Apr 9, 10-4pm

### Chinese Medicine Apr 9, 11-12:30pm

### Money is a 4-Letter Word

Apr 12, 7:30-9:30pm

### Menopause: A Self-Help Approach for Women of All Ages Apr 13, 7-8:30pm

### Writing in Our Own Voices

[limited to 8 women-please pre-register]

Apr 13, 20 & 27, 7-9pm

### Polarity Therapy Apr 16, 11-12 noon

### U.S. Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Apr 16, 11-3pm

### Rock Against Sexism

April 17, 1-5pm at Femme Core Space

### Intro. to Swing/Jitterbug [each time slot limited to 16 women, please pre-register]

Apr 23, 11-12:30pm and 12:30-2pm

### Where are the Women in Your Family Tree?

Apr 30, 10-1pm

### Staying on Track During Change

[limited to 8 women - please pre-register]

May 11, 18 & 25, 7-9pm

### Victims of Fashion time/date TBA

### Writers Support Group (ongoing)

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

## ¡Atención!

El Centro de mujeres en Cambridge ofrece una persona bilingüe, la cual habla Inglés y Español.

Para más información lláme al 354-8807 y hable con Lori.

SISTERS, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

(BRING OR MAIL THIS TO THE WOMEN'S CENTER,  
46 PLEASANT ST., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139)

## RACISM? IN CAMBRIDGE?

A public hearing on racism in Cambridge will be held on Saturday, April 30 at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School.

The Cambridge Human Rights Commission is organizing this event to:

- \* Increase public awareness
- \* Encourage people to talk about their experiences in Cambridge
- \* Let the community know that the Commission is a city agency concerned with issues of discrimination
- \* Provide a basis for action and encourage community involvement

If you are willing to testify or know of someone who is, please call 498-9049.

## WOMEN AND AIDS

"Our Communities Respond"

Saturday April 9, 1988

All day conference sponsored by Fenway Community Health Center and Suffolk University at 55 Temple St., Boston. There is a sliding scale admission price. For more information call 267-1538.

## WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

This open, ongoing group meets weekly to talk about writing, to share each other's work and give feedback and support. All skill and experience levels are welcome; all kinds of writing can be shared. We meet every Wednesday night from 7:30-9:30pm. For more information call Sylvan at 547-6766 (h) 491-4110 (w).



## ONGOING GROUPS

### SUNDAY

- \*Deaf Women's Community . . . 2-4pm  
Project (3rd Sunday, monthly)
- Women's International Support 12 noon  
Network (4th Sunday, monthly)

### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 7:30-9pm
- \*New Women's Chorus . . . . . 7-10pm
- Lesbian Rap . . . . . 8-10pm
- Narcotics Anonymous. . . . . 7:30-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm  
Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #'d months)
- I.R. Volunteers (3rd Monday) 7:30-9:30pm
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
(biweekly)

### TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf 7:30-9:30pm  
Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety . . . . . 7-8pm
- Partners of Incest Survivors 8:15-9:15pm
- \*For Crying Out Loud. . . . . 6:30-9pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1:30pm
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support . . . . . 7:30-9:45pm
- Politics of Fat. . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(biweekly)

### THURSDAY

- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
Survivors (1st & 3rd Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
Network (second Thurs., monthly)
- Women's School . . . . . 7:30-10pm

\* means group is not currently open to new members

## INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories. It meets on the third Thursday of every month, from 7:30-9:30 and is free of charge.

Next month's topic is:

March 17.....Sexuality

An open discussion group for women with incest histories also meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm.

To ensure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people.

## ))) COFFEEHOUSE (((((

Fridays 8pm-Midnite

		<u>Upcoming Events</u>
February	26	Oral History: to pass on our history & culture
March	4	Open night-share in relaxed conversation
	11	Feature Performer to be announced
	18	Open Jam-Bring Your Instruments
	25	CASA Film Series: "When the Mountains Tremble"

Many women would like to become involved in the Women's Center but don't know where to start. The WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE (Friday nights, 8-12, at the Women's Center) brings free, diverse cultural and social experiences to all women and provides a comfortable space for us to create our own community. For four hours each week, the Women's Center is ours to sing, talk, watch films, make friends, and to learn about our sisters. Volunteer performers and speakers share their time and energy. The Coffeehouse is always FREE and solves those what-to-do-on-Friday-night blues.

We welcome the involvement of any and all women: as a volunteer if you'd like to get involved in making things happen, as a performer if you'd like to be with a supportive audience, or as a participant in the history-making, free, Women's Coffeehouse.

We want to grow, and we want your help! Potential collective members are invited to call Sky Rose at 776-8514, or Christine Johnson at 327-2035 to learn more and to share your ideas. The Coffeehouse reflects the interests and goals of the participants and can only gain from your involvement! Call now!

## \*\*\* LESBIAN RAP \*\*\*

Mondays 8-10pm

		<u>Upcoming Topics</u>
February	29	How, Where, When Lesbians Play
March	7	Dating
	14	Safe Sex Can Be Fun
	21	Dealing with Differences in Partnerships
	28	Being Gay and Shy

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
DAY



11'th Annual Dorchester Celebration of  
International Women's Day  
MARCH 5, 9am-3pm

11 Charles St., Grover Cleveland School  
[at the Fields Corner stop of the MBTA Red  
Line, Ashmont train] Free parking available

On March 5th, women will gather together for the Dorchester celebration of International Women's Day. The theme this year is "**Women - Something Inside So Strong**". There will be workshops on incest, support for lesbian mothers, South Africa, desegregation in public housing, practical and political ways of surviving the economic depression, teenagers and violence, etc. and a consciousness raising session with the Disabled People's Liberation Front.

In addition, the celebration will feature a movie about AIDS (in Spanish), entertainment and speeches, and a cultural fair.

The event begins with registration at 9:00-9:30am (there is **no charge** for admission), a welcoming speech at 9:30 and workshops from 10-11:30am. Lunch will be provided (donations accepted). ASL and Spanish translators will be available. The space is wheelchair accessible.

All women and children are welcome.  
For more information, call 354-8807.

♀ ' S R A D I O M A R A T H O N

Celebrate International Women's Day  
with Music, Politics,  
Poetry and Culture on

♫ ♫ WMBR 88.1 FM ♫ ♫

Boston Women's Community Radio presents 24 hours of programming, starting at Midnight on Saturday, March 7th and going to midnight on Sunday, March 8th. Tune in to your sisters !!

Celebrate International Women's Day  
FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston  
(near Arlington St. Station, Green Line)

- 5 pm -- Workshops, Videos, Panels
- \* Palestinian Women under Occupation
  - \* Women/Family/Economic Issues
  - \* Update on Struggle in South Africa
- 7 pm -- Song, Dance & Speeches
- \* Speakers: Jean McGuire & a Soviet Woman Visitor
  - \* Emcee: Rosaria Salerno

Hunger appeased by "Food Not Bombs. Wheelchair accessible, Childcare. Donation \$3.  
Call 364-3013 for more info.

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MAY '88



## NAMES PROJECT

The "AIDS Quilt" consists of over 4,000 individual 3' x 6' panels, each one created by friends, family and/or loved ones of individuals who have died of AIDS. Roughly the size of 4 football fields, it is a statement of love and remembrance and hope, a symbol of national unity. "The Quilt, without any rhetoric, speaks eloquently about how the country should respond to AIDS. Just the image of it touches something that is very pure and very good" (USA Today).

The Quilt will be displayed here in Boston, June 16-19, at the Park Plaza Castle (corner of Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue). To accommodate anticipated crowds, the building will be open at 6 AM Friday-Sunday. On June 18, there will be a special unveiling of New England panels outside (rain date June 19)

Making a panel is a moving and powerful way to remember someone. It is not too late. Call the Names Project at 451-9003, for information on how to do it, or where to join a Quilting Bee.



One hundred hours and more than 200 fabric scraps went into the panel Larkin Mayo and Gary Yuschalk made for their friend Tom Castro, a housepainter.

## NEW SUPPORT GROUP

An open group for women who have surrendered children for adoption has just started meeting at the Women's Center on Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The goals are to help each other incorporate this decision into our lives, work through the pain, and feel comfortable sharing this aspect of ourselves with others. All women who have surrendered a child are welcome to attend any meeting. Confidentiality is assured. Call the Center for info.

## NEW WRITING GROUP

The focus is on writing from your own experience. The first hour is spent writing in response to a photo or something else brought in by a participant. The last 1/2 hour is spent reading what has been written and giving each other feedback. Meets every other Saturday from noon to 1:30 at the Women's Center. Open to any interested women.

## LESBIAN / GAY PRIDE

### GAY PRIDE MARCH

Saturday, June 11. Leaves City Hall Plaza (Govt. Center T) at noon. Rally 2-6 pm at the Boston Common. FREE! Childcare, ASL Interpreters, wheelchair accessible.

## PICNIC

For lesbians and children  
SUNDAY, MAY 22  
11am - 3pm

Dean Playground, Brookline  
Bring lunch, bats, balls, rackets,  
etc. Sponsored by 'Children In Our Lives'  
Conference Planners



## COFFEE - OPEN - HOUSE

The Coffeehouse is having a volunteer open house at the Women's Center, Sunday May 22 from 6-8pm. Anyone who wants to find what makes the Coffeehouse run is most welcome.

## SOFTBALL

Softball anyone? The Women's Center has been invited to join a non-profit, non-competitive softball league sponsored by the Cambridge YWCA. If you would be interested in playing, please leave your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet at the Center, or call Lisa at 497-0958.

## ONGOING GROUPS

### SUNDAY

- Deaf Women's Community . . . . . 2-4pm  
Project (3rd Sunday, monthly)
- Women's International Support. . 12 noon  
Network (4th Sunday, monthly)

### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . . 7:30-9pm
- \*New Women's Chorus. . . . . 7-10pm
- Lesbian Rap . . . . . 8-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm  
Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #'d months)
- I.R. Volunteers (3rd Monday) 7:30-9:30pm.
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
(biweekly)

### TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . . . 7pm-9pm  
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf . 7:30-9:30pm  
Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety . . . . . 7-8:30pm
- \*For Crying Out Loud. . . . . 6:30-9pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1:30pm
- Feminist Discussion Group . . . . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare) . . 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support . . . . . 7:30-9:45pm
- Politics of Fat (biweekly) . 7:30-9:30pm

### THURSDAY

- Women Who Have Surrendered . 6:30-8:30pm  
Children for Adoption
- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
Survivors
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
Network (second Thursday, monthly)
- \*Women's School . . . . . 7:30-10pm

### SATURDAY

- Writer's Support Group . . . noon-1:30pm  
(biweekly)
- \* means group is not currently open

## SINGLES MINGLE

SINGLES PARTY at the Women's Center on Sat. May 21st, 8 to 11 PM. Alcohol, drug and smoke-free. Music & refreshments. Women of all ages & stages are welcome!

## BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT

We welcome all battered women. Come and share this all too common problem and learn that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. We can explore options and alternatives and find ways to change the situation to allow you to grow and once again become your own person. The group meets Wednesday at Noon and Monday evenings at 7:30pm at the Women's Center.

## FEMINISTS DISCUSS

Wednesdays 8-10pm

- |        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| May 18 | Racism                      |
| 25     | Having and Not Having Money |
| June 1 | Incest as a Feminist Issue  |
| 8      | Women's Laughter            |
| 15     | Rage and Anger              |
| 22     | Hating Yourself as a Woman  |
| 29     | Women's Literature          |

## LESBIAN RAP

Mondays 8-10pm

- |        |                                        |
|--------|----------------------------------------|
| May 23 | Roles in Relationships                 |
| 30     | Outdoors Women                         |
| June 6 | Family Attitudes and Being Gay         |
| 13     | How Do You Know When Its Over          |
| 20     | Effects of Sexual Abuse on<br>Intimacy |
| 27     | Lesbian Creativity                     |

## COFFEEHOUSE

Fridays 8pm-Midnite

- |         |                                                                                                                  |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 20  | Female Fantasies of Revenge -<br>Bring stories, writings, songs.<br>Feature film - <u>A Question of Silence.</u> |
| May 27  | CASA film series - <u>Look at My<br/>People - See How They Struggle</u><br>(Spanish with subtitles).             |
| June 3  | Rosario Morales, poet, reads<br>from her book <u>Getting Home Alive</u> ,<br>published with her daughter.        |
| June 10 | A showing of the works of Patti<br>Wilson, Deaf Community Activist and<br>Media Artist.                          |
| June 17 | Shryl Bailey & friend play jazz<br>guitar.                                                                       |
| June 24 | Another great evening of poetry<br>and humor with the Pleasant St. Writing<br>Brigade.                           |



## I. R. CUTS BACK

Incest Resources has been a crucial resource to incest survivors since they were incorporated in 1981. Two of the founders, Elaine Westerlund and Kathy Morrissey, have continued to play major roles in keeping I.R. alive and well throughout the years. When Incest Resources was incorporated, there were no support groups for survivors.(!) The founders decided to start one for themselves. This evolved into the Drop-In Discussion Group for Women with Incest Histories which they have facilitated since 1983. It has become the most populated group at the Women's Center, generally filling 2 large rooms to overflowing.

Both Elaine and Kathy have been very involved in making and maintaining the resource book for incest survivors, writing and dispersing relevant literature, legislative advocacy and public speaking. This past year their roles have increased even more because all the other core members of the Incest Resources collective gradually left.

Sadly, but understandably, they have decided to cut back on some of the programs although they will continue to work in several capacities for incest survivors. They will no longer offer the monthly discussion group after June, and they will also stop maintaining the I.R. Referral & Resource Book after Sept. 1.

We want to commend Kathy and Elaine for all the work they have done and to express our heartfelt appreciation for their constructive impact on the lives of thousands of incest survivors. Because of their pioneering efforts, they have greatly decreased the isolation of incest survivors in the Greater Boston Area.

## UPCOMING TOPICS

Discussion Groups for Women with Incest Histories: Third Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm  
May 19 - Strength  
June 16 - Saying Goodbye  
For Deaf Women: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30-9:30pm  
May 17 - Healing  
June 21 - Letting Go

## CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
Coffeeshouse 8pm - Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

## NEW SURVIVERS NETWORK

Services for incest survivors will continue at the Women's Center! A group of survivors familiar with the drop-in groups facilitated by Incest Resources, have rallied together to create a new organization and decided to name it Incest Survivors Network (ISN). Members of ISN will facilitate drop-in discussion groups in September. (See ALERT about the new schedule of the drop-in groups.) A resource book, consisting of therapists, groups and other services available to survivors, will also be maintained by members of ISN and will be available for perusal in September. Anyone interested in joining ISN and participating in any way (facilitating, working on resource book, or any other project that would be helpful to incest survivors) please call the Women's Center, 354-8807, and ask to speak to Alice.

While we are sad to see Incest Resources discontinue some of its services, we are very grateful for the spirit which has nurtured us for so long and which enables us to carry on this important work.

## INCEST & THE MEDIA

THE POLITICS OF INCEST: Feminism, Child Sexual Abuse, and the Media: Points that were made at this event include: While the media encourages children and adults to disclose sexual abuse, society does not respond constructively. The police, the courts and the media fail to treat sexual abuse as a serious crime, neither punishing the perpetrator nor focusing on what's best for the child. Children have no power to protect themselves and no say in where they get put when they acknowledge abuse. Abuse is fostered by our society. Males are allowed to treat women and children as their property; the family unit, where most sexual (and physical) abuse occurs, is considered sacred. Changes in these basic assumptions are urgently needed, but the mainstream media reinforces them.

**ALERT: AS OF 5/12/88 DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR INCEST SURVIVORS OCCUR EVERY THURSDAY (FACILITATED ON THE THIRD THURSDAY EXCEPT IN JULY & AUGUST).**

## WALK FOR LIFE

On Sunday, June 5, people from all walks of life will gather on Boston Common for a 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) pledge walk to raise money for AIDS care and services. The largest AIDS fundraising event in New England, the AIDS Action committee is hoping to raise \$880,000 in 1988 (last year - 5,000 raised \$750,000). The proceeds will be given to 20 New England AIDS service organizations.

## POLITICS OF FAT

Politics of Fat is reorganizing. We are an ongoing group that meets every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm. Our goal is to create a supportive and trusting space where women can feel comfortable about their size (no matter what their size) and discuss their common experiences as women being oppressed by unattainable standards of beauty.

- Upcoming discussion topics:
- May 25 Family and Body Image: What part did/do members of our family play in the way we feel about our bodies?
- June 8 The Media: What does the media tell us about how we should look? Where can we find alternatives to these messages?
- June 22 Feminist Literature on Fat, Beauty and Body Image: Bring your favorite books and/or magazines to share
- July 6 Food as a Feminist Issue  
Possible future topics include: Sexuality & Body Image, To Diet or Not to Diet, The Politics of Eating Disorders, Educating the Feminist Community about Looksism, Keeping Your Sanity in a Sizeist World.

## STATUS OF WOMEN

The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women is a department of the City of Cambridge, initiated by local women and commissioned by the City Council in 1977 as a voice for women throughout Cambridge. Up to twenty women can serve on the Commission at one time; they are appointed by the City Manager for one or two terms of three years each. The Commission makes recommendations on policy and program to the City Council, Manager and other city departments and promotes education in the community on issues important to women. The Commission also works with individuals and organization in Cambridge to insure women's participation and representation in every aspect of Cambridge life.

## ¡Atención!

El Centro de mujeres en Cambridge ofrece una persona bilingue, la cual habla Inglés y Español.

Para más información lláme al 354-8807 y hable con Lori.

## RACISM IN CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge Human Rights Commission sponsored a daylong public forum about the racism that exists in our community. Public testimony included accounts of MIT police harrassing minority students, as well as how MIT's expansion, if unchecked, will wipe out the multicultural character of the Central Square area, eliminate stores with affordable wares and reduce further housing options for low income residents.

Currently, there are 2000 applications on the waiting list for public housing, and of these, 80% are from minority populations. Rent controlled housing has no income guidelines at all and is obtained primarily through informal networks, not available to the public.

Discrimination in other areas: incorrect assumptions such as that crimes are most often committed by minority group members reinforce racist attitudes. School bus drivers strikes are greeted with, "you don't care about children," rather than "what are you getting paid." 75% of school bus drivers are people of color; 85% of those have children; they earn \$13-\$14,000/year.

## MASS ACT - OUT

MASS ACT-OUT is a grassroots, direct action group of lesbians and gay men, whose primary purposes are to fight homophobia and to support the participation of lesbians and gay men in all parts of our society. MASS ACT-OUT identifies society's fearful, irrational and inadequate response to the AIDS crisis as the most immediate and dangerous manifestation of homophobia. MASS ACT-OUT is committed to fight this and all expressions of homophobia. Because homophobia is linked to other forms of oppression, MASS ACT-OUT commits itself to working in alliance with other groups that challenge oppression based on race, sex, age, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, sexual and transgenderal orientation in order to secure true liberation for all lesbian and gay people.

Call 661-7737 for more info



Our community outreach plan is taking off! As was mentioned in the last issue of *On Our Way*, our main goal is to focus attention on reaching out to disabled women, women of color, older/younger women, and mothers.

We've recently attended a conference on Women and Disability in New Haven, Conn. and a rally in support of the Transportation Access Act (S1390, H3547). This act would, among other things, make public transportation in MA 100% accessible. Affordable and accessible transportation is essential to disabled women if they are to have full access into the work force and the women's movement. A number of disabled women have already said they would participate more fully in the Women's Center if they had accessible transportation. If you would like more information about this bill, call Laura Rauscher at 727-7440.

We have recently mailed our new Spanish brochure to organizations that serve Hispanic women. We are currently doing mailings to other groups serving other women of color. Outreach has also been done to organizations that work with teen-age women. We plan to meet with women from these groups during the next few months and hope to create strong ties between our organizations. If you are interested in helping with outreach, or want more info, call Lori at 354-8807.

### GERMAN VISITORS

On April 4th, a group of 12 women from the Federal Republic of Germany visited the Center as part of a feminist exchange program with the U.S. called Women's Bridge, 1988. We discussed the similarities and differences between their local Women's Center and our Center. The Berliners were impressed by our size, diversity of services and stability. Their Center is much smaller than ours and doesn't provide a referral network. Funding is their main problem. On the weekends they open up as a Center Cafe to help support their existence. They also rent out space to interested individuals or groups to help cover costs.

If you are interested in participating the next time a group of foreign women want to visit us, call Lori at 354-8807.

Tituba, the Women's Center cat, has lived at the Center for the past 15 years since she was abandoned on our doorstep as a very frightened kitten. She has slowly made progress towards feeling comfortable and loved by the women who work at and visit the Center, although she still runs and hides when the commotion is too much for her. However, her presence here means that some women who are allergic to cat dander cannot use the Center, or must suffer allergic reactions when they are here. The All-Center Meeting has recently received two letters objecting to Tituba's presence here, since it makes the Center inaccessible to some women.

There is no easy solution to this dilemma. We have opened up the question to the Center community by raising the issue on graffiti sheets in the bathrooms and through this article. Many women have stated the the Center is her home, and we should not 'evict' her. Others have pointed out that although finding another home for Tituba may seem like the obvious solution, she may not survive the transition, as it has taken her 15 years to become somewhat comfortable here.

Another suggestion was that Tituba be restricted from one of the meeting rooms. This room could be used by groups with participants who are sensitive to cat dander. This would likely involve room shuffling, compromises by other groups and would be complicated if two groups needed this special room at the same time.

The issue seems to have some similarities to the recent issue of smoking at the Center, and we feel a similar strong split of women on both sides of the issue. However, here, the decision will not just affect women, but also decides the future life of an animal. Any suggestions you may have on how to resolve this issue are welcome. Send your comments to the All Center Mtg., c/o The Women's Center.

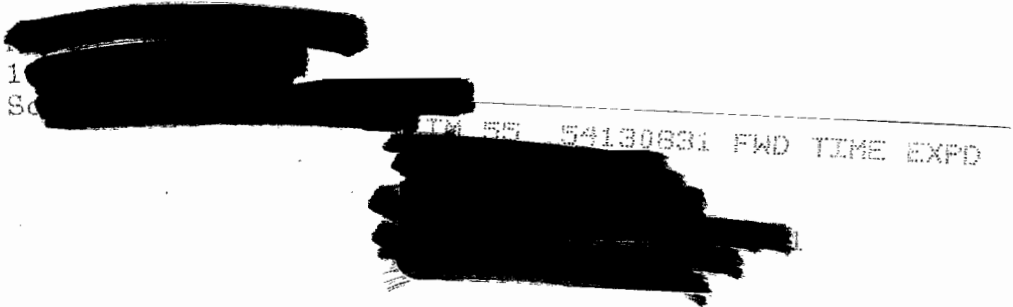
### NEWOMEN

The Newoman Committee is off and running! We've had two potlucks and called more than 50 women. There are two more potlucks planned for Sunday, May 15 and Friday, June 10. For more information, or to join the Newoman Committee, leave a message for Janet Putnam at the Center.

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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Address Correction Requested

SCHOOL'S OUT!

The Women's School is concluding another successful term. We want to thank all of you who attended and taught workshops and classes. We are already planning our fall term. If you are interested in offering a workshop, please contact us through the Women's Center. Watch for the Women's School yard sale, coming soon!



The On Our Way mailing list is nearly 1000 strong. We occasionally lend our mailing list to other groups for publicizing events that we believe may be of interest to our community. If you would prefer that we not give your address to other groups for their mailings, please let us know on the form below.

PARTY THANKS

Thanks to all the wonderful people that donated food for our Center Birthday Party in March. Many women brought goodies to the party, and cakes came from: the Blacksmith House Bakery and the Modern Times Cafe (Cambridge), and Patsy's Pastry Shop (Somerville). The Crescent Wench, (Somerville) donated 2 dozen croissants and Toscanini's (Cambridge) gave us 5 gallons of ice cream. Everything was delicious! Thank you Thank you Thank you!

We can't mention the party without mentioning our appreciation for the singers who donated their talent. Thanks to Pat Humphries, Helen Kohane, Linda Sheets and Claudia Sheftel for bringing their music to the Center. Four cheers for the singers!

Your contribution helps the women's Center to accomplish a great deal for women.  
EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!! MANY THANKS

Yes - I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution.  
\$5      \$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      other

\_\_\_ Rather than contribute now I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_ months.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

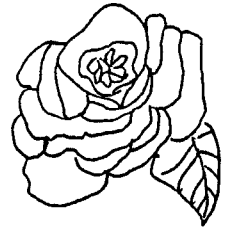
We sometimes gives our mailing list to other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.

\_\_\_ Please do not give out my name to other organizations.

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807  
TTY and VOICE



## Summer '88

### RALLY!

On July 13 over 80 people gathered at the State House to put pressure on the legislature to extend the time allowed (statute of limitations) to sue child sexual abusers. Powerful and eloquent speeches were given by 9 survivors, Sen. Carol Amick, Rep. Barbara Gray, (sponsors of the bills), and Beth Herr (Virginia LaLonde's lawyer). It was televised and broadcast on radio. The rally, organized by Incest Survivors Network, was influential in freeing one bill from the Judiciary Committee where it had been captive for 6 months.

Presently women can only sue between the ages of 18-21. For most survivors, that is essentially impossible, because they don't have the security, financial resources, or strength to face their abusers and to go through an adversarial court proceeding and because many survivors of abuse repress the memory for a very long time. For these reasons, the statute must be extended. Resistance comes from several angles: lawyers are concerned that one's capacity to accurately remember the abuse, and to obtain evidence which substantiates the claim, diminishes with time. With the high prevalence of abuse, there must be perpetrators in the legislature who would have strong resistance to increasing the avenues for survivors to publically talk about the incest. Additionally, others are concerned the courts will be flooded with cases!

Senate bill 691 will be debated on the Senate floor when the legislature reconvenes after summer recess.

CONTACT YOUR STATE (NOT U.S.) SENATOR & URGE SUPPORT FOR S.691 TO EXTEND THE STATUTE FOR FILING CIVIL SUITS UNTIL AGE 28. Call 722-2000 to find out who your senator is.

### WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY

There are so many women of all ages whose lives are silently, or in cries that go unheard, being damaged or destroyed by alcoholism. The disease is often unrecognized by the women themselves or by those around them. Treatment is often costly and not conducive to emotional and spiritual growth.

On Tuesday evenings at the Women's Center, women are taking their recovery into their own hands. The women meet each week to provide each other with the support and compassion that are needed to heal from this addiction. The group is part of Women for Sobriety, a nationwide self-help program founded by Jean Kirkpatrick, author of "Goodbye Hangovers, Hello Life".

Recovery is an ongoing process of growth and learning that continues even after an alcoholic takes her last drink. Group discussions focus on such issues as rebuilding self-esteem, experiencing our emotions rather than numbing them, recognizing our vulnerabilities and our strengths, taking care of ourselves, and discovering healthier ways to deal with anxieties and anger.

If you are beginning or continuing to recover from alcoholism, we hope you will join us at the Women's Center on Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30pm. The group meets on an ongoing, drop-in basis and is led by a women who has a year of sobriety.

### HOUSING

#### HELP WOMEN FIND HOUSING

If you know of a vacant apartment which could be rented to someone with a Section 8 voucher, please contact Kekelwa Dall or Steve Meacham at 868-2900. (\$50 reward if apt. is rented by Section 8 recipient.)

# UPCOMING TOPICS



## ARE YOU NEW?



### ♀♀♀ FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP ♀♀♀

Wednesdays 8-10pm

- Aug 3 How TV Portrays Women's Lives
- 10 Women Hating Women
- 17 Building Our Self-Esteem
- 24 Derogatory Language
- 31 Our Mothers, Our Selves

### ▼▼▼ LESBIAN RAP ▼▼▼

Mondays 8-10pm

- Aug 1 Lesbian Passion
- 8 Mother Transference in Relationships
- 15 Sexual Vulnerability
- 22 Body Image & Self Esteem
- 29 Being Gay & Families

### )))) COFFEEHOUSE (((((

Fridays 8pm-Midnite

- Aug 5 "MINE 2" - Open reading on women's sexuality.
- 12 Women's Video Collective - a showing of works
- 19 Celebration of Life - Fern Weiss & friends read Gena Glicklich's erotic writing
- 26 Women's Coffeehouse Benefit - Location to be announced.
- Sept 2 Open Visual Arts Display - call if you would like to display your work

## POLITICS OF FAT

Politics of Fat welcomes new members. We are an ongoing group that meets every other Wed., 7:30-9:30pm. Our goal is to create a supportive and trusting space where women can feel comfortable about their size (no matter what their size) and discuss their common experiences as women being oppressed by unattainable standards of beauty.

Scheduled discussion topics include:

- Aug 3 What is Sizeism? What is Lookism?
- Aug 17 To Diet or Not to Diet
- Aug 31 Clothing

Possible future topics include: The Politics of Eating Disorders, Educating the Feminist Community about Lookism, Keeping Your Sanity in a Sizeist World.

The next NEWOMAN potluck supper will be Sunday, August 21 at 6:30pm, with a movie at 8pm. All women new (and not so new) to Boston or to the Center are welcome, (children, too). Come learn more about the Center and meet other women.

## ONGOING GROUPS

### SUNDAY

- Deaf Women's Community . . . . . 2-4pm Project (3rd Sunday, monthly)
- Women's International Support. . 12 noon Network (4th Sunday, monthly)

### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . . . 7:30-9pm
- \*New Women's Chorus. . . . . 7-10pm
- Lesbian Rap . . . . . 8-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #'d months)
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm (biweekly)

### TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . . . 7pm-9pm Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf . 7:30-9:30pm Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety . . . . . 7-8:30pm
- Women Who Have Been Sexually Harassed at Work . . . . . 6:30-8pm
- \*For Crying Out Loud. . . . . 6:30-9pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Feminist Discussion Group . . . . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare) . . . 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm
- Politics of Fat (biweekly) . 7:30-9:30pm
- Lesbian Partners of Incest . 8:15-9:15pm Survivors (biweekly)
- Healing Through Art for. . . . . 7-10pm Incest Survivors (1st Wed., monthly)

### THURSDAY

- Women Who Have Surrendered . 7:30-8:30pm Children for Adoption
- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm Survivors
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm Network (second Thursday, monthly)
- \*Women's School . . . . . 7:30-10pm

### SATURDAY

- Writer's Support Group . . . noon-1:30pm (biweekly)
- \* means group is not currently open



## INCEST SURVIVORS NETWORK

Incest Survivors Network is a dynamic, new organization comprised of survivors who are working together to create appropriate resources and services for ourselves and other survivors. (As previously mentioned, Incest Resources Inc. has cut back on its services.) See below for information about new groups forming. New members welcome!

### COMMITTEES FORMING

Organizational: Compiling a resource book

Legislative: Currently working on S. 691

Speaker Bureau: Public speaking

Fundraising: Grant writing, etc.

For more information call 354-8807

### UPCOMING EVENTS

\* Possible rally/demonstration in Sept. to support of S.691. Letter writing, more!

\* Facilitated, drop-in incest survivor discussion groups on the 3rd Thurs. of the month 7:30-9:15pm

Sept 15: Self-esteem

Oct 13: Fear

Nov 17: Self-destructive behavior:

Self-mutilation & substance abuse

Dec 15: Taking Care of Ourselves:

Nurturing & Self-protection

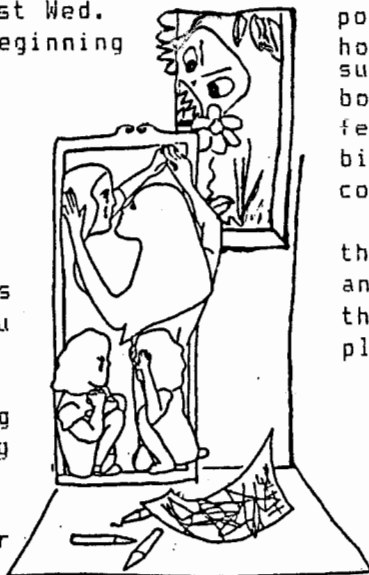
As usual, unfacilitated drop-in discussion groups meet each Thursdays, 7:30-9:15 pm, when a facilitated group does not. These groups are open only to women incest survivors. Women without clear memories are welcome. Please arrive on time, doors will close soon after 7:30 to avoid interruption.

## HEALING THRU ART

FDR: Incest Survivors (Non-Abusers)

### The Healing Through Art Group

At the Women's Center, the 1st Wed. of each month from 7-10pm, beginning Aug 3rd. Non-artists are encouraged, not discouraged. We will share visual art and art to be heard in hopes of gaining insight from one another. We will share different formats and different expressions. We will discuss how each one of us heals thru our own art. Through art we can gain a greater awareness of self and a greater healing ability. For the 1st meeting bring in a T-shirt. Following a discussion on expression, we will be painting our own T-shirts.



## BIRTHMOTHERS

Many women who have surrendered a child to adoption have come to term themselves "birthmother". This term has evolved over the years so that labels to both the women who surrender and the women who adopt are less dichotomous, i.e. the term "natural mother" gives the adoptive woman a "unnatural" assignment and "biological mother" turns the adoption into a laboratory exchange. So in giving a positive value to women who give birth and surrender they become the birthmother and the woman who adopts and raises the child is the child's mother.

Each Thursday evening, the Birthmothers' Support Group meets to share feelings, explore ideas, and address issues that become part of a birthmother's life. The only criteria for the group is being a birthmother and participation in the group is kept confidential. The group addresses a specific issue each week, i.e., anger, birth experiences, and also each woman has a space to share her personal feelings. Also a reading list is being put together to share with each other regarding the adoption experience. Women are encouraged to share personal poems, and prose they have written but we also offer a safe space to the women who just need to be with other birthmothers and are not yet ready to talk about their experience.

On July 8, Terri Trafas (a group member) and I appeared on the Good Day Show to briefly talk about our experience of being birthmothers. This was an opportunity to show that being a birthmother is an ongoing part of a woman's life and it also offered adoptive parents the chance to hear what birthmothers feel about their position in the adoption experience, and how they feel toward the child they surrendered. It was a good experience for both of us and I have had some excellent feedback and inquiries not only from other birthmothers but from those in the counseling and adoption professions.

If you want further information about the group you may call the Women's Center, and if you want to talk to someone about the group before coming to a meeting, please call dian webber at 662-0417.

### CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 8pm
Coffeehouse	8pm - Midnite
Saturday	11am - 2pm



## COMPOSER WANTED

**WANTED:** A musician/composer to write a musical piece that would be reflective of several of the many cultures represented in Cambridge (e.g. Haitian, Portuguese, Caribbean, Greek, etc.). The music would be used as a theme song on a weekly women's program on CCTV (Cambridge Community TV), slated for fall production. If you're interested, call Mary at 868-7397.

## FALL SCHOOL TERM

The Women's School will be holding our fall term in October. If you have an idea for a class or workshop that you would like to offer, contact us by August 4th at 354-8807. Also, if you would like to help us organize our fall term, call or leave a note at the Center.

## REFERRAL UPDATES

Lately, Namita and Mary have been a great help in updating and organizing our referral info. Would you like to help too? Take a section and make a masterpiece! Housing, Parenting, Support Groups, Arts & Entertainment, Holistic Health, Self-Defense, Youth, Addictions, Eating Disorders . . . Call Judy at 354-8807 if you are interested.

## OUTREACH

Lori Stewart, after a short stint as Outreach/Staff Coordinator, has resigned. We regret that it did not work out, and wish her well.

We still have a strong commitment to reach out to women who are unfamiliar with the Center and are looking at various ways to connect with communities of women who might not currently come to the Center. Our plans are still in the formative stage, but may involve community-based events focusing on recovering from and preventing abuse of women and children.

## PLEASE NOTE

The Battered Women's Support Group on Wednesdays at noon has moved from the Center to the Cambridge Public Library. The group on Monday evenings, 7:30-9pm, still meets at the Center.

## STATE YOUR CASE

Some of us at the Women's Center are interested in starting a monthly letter writing night to write letters to legislators, newspapers, etc. expressing "our" political and personal opinions (whatever they may be). The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27th at 7pm. We'll supply paper, envelopes, stamps, and if you want, addresses of legislators and newspapers, and info on selected legislative struggles. Just bring your ideas, energy and words.

## ARTISTS EXHIBIT

### Women in Visual Arts Exhibit

This is an open exhibit for all women who wish to exhibit their art, especially those women who have not exhibited their art because of the difficulties in getting into the "mainstream". All women are encouraged to participate. All visual art mediums, photography, oil paint, pastels, collage, charcoal, pen & ink, cartooning, realism, surrealism, etc., will be there!! Please call Deanne Taylor at 341-2551 (leave message) to reserve space to exhibit your artwork. The show is free and will be held at the Women's Center on Sept. 2, 1988, 8 pm to midnight. Sponsored by the Women's Coffeehouse.

## FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

For Crying Out Loud, a newsletter by and for women survivors of child sexual abuse, is published quarterly out of the Women's Center. We appreciate the Women's Center providing us with such a safe, convenient and comfortable meeting place. Subscriptions to our newsletter are available by sending a check for \$10 made out to 'Survivors' Newsletter Collective' to us at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Cambridge, MA 02139.

## THERAPIST VOLUNTEERS

The Women's Counseling & Resource Center, a volunteer organization, is looking for feminist therapists to join us in providing referrals and counseling to women. We are seeking new members who have a master's level degree in counseling or social work and can commit four hours/week to the group. If you are interested, call 492-8568.

## DIRECTIONS TO SUCCESS

The Deaf Women's Community Project (DWCP) is sponsoring the 3rd Deaf Women United (DWU) Conference, "Directions to Success" during the summer of 1989. The conference will be held in Mass. and the exact location will be announced later. DWU, a national organization of deaf women with diverse backgrounds, ethnic identities, ages and occupations was founded in 1985 at a national meeting of Deaf Women in Los Angeles. The 2nd DWU meeting was held in 1987 at George Mason Univ. in VA.

The conference will provide an opportunity for deaf women from across the country to meet and share ideas and experiences. Workshop topics will revolve around personal enrichment, self-awareness, and differences among deaf women themselves. The conference will also feature deaf women's culture and herstory, support groups, exhibits, and entertainment by deaf women.

For more info on the 1989 DWU Conference, contact: Suzan Bedrosian, Coordinating Chairperson, c/o The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, 02139. TTY/V (617) 354-8807 (messages only). Home TTY (617) 666-8457 (eve.). Mass. Relay Service: TTY/V (617) 254-4160, TTY 1-800-262-3323, 7am-11pm

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

If sexual harassment on the job is or has been happening to you, come talk with others who have been in the same situation, Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm, at the Women's Center. By sharing experiences, brainstorming solutions to current situations & just being together, we can see that we're not alone and can give & get support.

## LESBIANS & CHILDREN

Lesbians Choosing Children Network would like to welcome all women with children to our meeting on October 13th, 7:30-10pm. Those of us without children are interested in hearing from parents and co-parents about: how it feels to give birth, what it is like having a baby/child in your life, how a child affects relationships. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Childcare will be provided.



## TITUBA

As discussed in our May edition, we have been trying figure out how to be accessible to women with severe allergies to cats, when the Center is also Tituba's home. All of us feel a strong loyalty to Tituba, and great distaste for moving her from her home of 15 years. On the other hand, we know that a primary goal of the Center, to be accessible to all women, is not being met.

As a temporary solution, we ask that Tituba and other animals be kept out of the 1st floor living room so there will be an "animal-free" space. However, there are problems with this: at times women forget to close the door and, as an allergic woman noted, dander will still be tracked into the room from the rest of the house.

After much discussion, we have concluded that the best solution is to find Tituba a new home. We believe that she could be quite content in a more consistent, less hectic environment. We will select a home for her very carefully. There will be a trial period during which we will visit her and she will only stay if she is happy there. We have prepared a questionnaire for potential caretakers which is available by calling or visiting the Center. As yet, no one has shown interest in adopting her.

We wish every one of you would agree with this decision, but we know that is impossible. Much anger and hostility has been expressed by women who are for or against keeping Tituba. We hope we can look beyond our differences and work together to make our Center a welcoming place to women with allergies, and to find a great new home for our dear cat-friend.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Women visiting the U.S. from other countries, some prominent in political, labor or women's movements in their home countries, sometimes ask to visit the Center and speak to a small group of interested women about conditions in their country and to find out about women's lives in the U.S. Would you like to join other women in greeting and speaking with these international visitors? If you would like to participate, please call the Center and leave your name, number and the times you would be available.

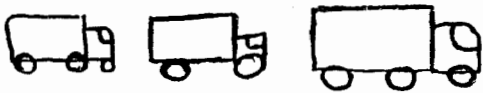
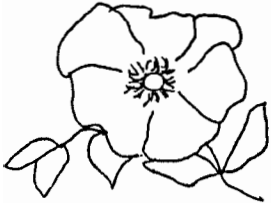
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### MOVING AROUND?

Thanks very much to those of you who have sent us change of address cards when moving around town or out of town. This really helps us keep our mailing list up-to-date and saves us 25 cents extra postage on newsletters returned by the post office. Our current policy is to drop people from the mailing list when the newsletter is returned. (The post office will not forward bulk mail.) Those who notify us of their new addresses will get uninterrupted delivery of ON OUR WAY. If you think we may have dropped you somewhere along the way, just call or write and let us know your new address. We'll be glad to put you back on our list.

### PARKING NEWS

We now have a marked parking space in front of the Center for people with disabilities. Please respect this space and leave it open for those who need to use it. Parking near the Center during the day has been more of a challenge than usual lately. In addition to resident-only parking, watch out for the signs listing street cleaning days when you park. They vary by street, side of street, and block and they tow FAST! There are parking lots at Green & Pleasant St., only 4 blocks away from the Center. We are also only a few minutes walk from the Central Sq. stop on the Red Line. NOTE: If you have one of the Center's Visitor Parking Permits -- PLEASE RETURN IT so others can avoid those nasty parking tickets.

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Your contribution helps the Women's Center to accomplish a great deal for women.  
EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!! MANY THANKS

Yes - I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution.  
\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Rather than contribute now I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_ months.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

We sometimes gives our mailing list to other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.

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# ♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

1st Floor - Wheelchair Accessible

NOV '88



## THE ARCHIVES

The Women's Movement Archives began in 1981 when the Women's Center received a small grant to organize the records of several contemporary Boston area women's organizations. These records had been donated to the Center over the years for safe-keeping, and it was to make these collections accessible that the Archives was created.

If your group or organization has records such as minutes of meetings, correspondence, photographs, newsletters, statements of unity, buttons, or posters - please consider donating them for safekeeping to the Archives or another repository. Nothing which relates to the women's movement should be thrown away! If you have questions about how to organize your organizational, group or personal papers, we are available to talk with you and/or your organization.

Only by preserving our history as a movement can we insure that it won't be lost! In the past, information on feminist activism has been lost or written out of history. An archives controlled by women helps to insure that this will no longer happen, and that the work we are doing will be adequately documented. Don't let our history be lost!

A new brochure about the Women's Movement Archives and the Women's Center Library is available. Women interested in volunteering/contributing to the Archives or Library can call the Center to leave a message for the Archives/Library staff.



## BIRTHMOTHERS

The birthmother's support group has been meeting at the Women's Center since May, 1988. This group offers women who have surrendered a child to adoption a safe space to talk about and share this personal experience. The group is not a group focused on searching for the birthchild. Women who have searched, have reconnected with their birthchild, or are considering searching use the group for support. Some women have decided not to search, others have "open adoption" formats and may see their children; each of these experiences has a unique set of feelings and ideas, and the group offers a place to investigate and share.

Each meeting, we try to offer a specific topic of discussion along with individual focus, as needed. Some women may not be ready to talk, but coming to the group and just listening is often helpful to their healing. This group maintains confidentiality and is restricted to birthmothers.

For many women, this support group is specific to their needs, others find individual counselling or therapy a good balance to the group. We are not a therapy group, but we offer support and often referrals for someone who wants to go into individual therapy.

The group is now meeting the first and third Thursday of each month, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. The next three meetings will be on Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15. For the interim times when someone needs support, we offer a phone network, and are always ready to help each other one on one. For more info, call dian at 662-0417 (please leave your name & number).

## TITUBA

Just a short update on our decision to try to find a new home for Tituba, the Women Center's cat. As discussed in the last two issues of On Our Way, we know that Tituba's presence makes the the Center inaccessible to women with allergies to cats. Are there any cat-loving woman able to adopt her out there? We have not received any offers of a new home or responses to our letter and questionnaire for interested women. We have received some letters from disabled women who strongly feel that a new home must be found. We have also received letters and comments from women, allergic to cats or not, who feel that Tituba should be allowed to live out the rest of her life here at the Center, since she is already 15 years old. This decision was very difficult for all of us, with lots of strong feelings on both sides. We had hoped to find a warm, loving, stable home for Tituba and, at the same time, make the Center a more welcome place for women with allergies, but so far, no luck. If you or someone you know would be interested in adopting Tituba, please call, write or visit the Center. The living room will remain off limits for Tituba, and whenever possible, meetings which allergic women want to attend will be held there.

## WCRC EXPANDS

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center, a volunteer collective of feminist therapists located at the Women's Center, has just added 4 members to our group. This greatly increases our ability to provide therapy to women who do not have the financial means to go elsewhere. We are in the process of preparing a brochure which will fully describe our services, and copies will be available at the Women's Center.

## RELATIVES OF THE MENTALLY ILL/RETARDED

I am looking to start a support group and/or at least talk with siblings or parents of chronically mentally ill or mentally retarded individuals, particularly those with a personal/political interest in issues pertaining to guardianship problems, practices and abuses. I am currently involved with a number of short-term projects in this area and would like very much to share experiences with other women who are in similar situations.

Janice Cohen 864-3823

## WOMEN IN BLACK

Join the ongoing Women in Black vigils, protesting the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and supporting the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. Picket outside of the Israeli Consulate at the Statler Office Building, Park Square, Boston.

We dress entirely in black for these demonstrations to show our solidarity with the Israeli peace group, Women in Black, which protests the Occupation every Friday in Jerusalem.

For more information, call Nancy Murray at 482-3170 during the day or Margaret at 492-7960 before 9:30 p.m.

## HARVEST BRIGADE

Join the harvest brigade to Nicaragua!

Nov. 19 - Dec. 17

Dec. 17 - Jan. 14

Dec. 20 - Jan. 7 \*

(special for students)

Jan. 7 - Feb. 4

For info & applications, call Carl, 868-5219 or Amy, 776-5302. Local sponsor: CASA Nicaragua Committee, 1151 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138.



## MULTIPLE EXPOSURES

A series of stylistically innovative films by international women filmmakers, Fridays at 7pm, free, wheelchair accessible. Call 253-8844 for info & location. Sponsored by the Program in Women's Studies at M.I.T.

Nov. 18 -- "WOMAN CRY" and "BEYOND TODAY" directed by Miriam Patsanza (Zimbabwe)

Dec. 2 -- "LEILA AND THE WOLVES" directed by Heiny Sroun (Lebanon)

Dec. 9 -- "ANNE DEVLIN" directed by Pat Murphy (Eire)

Dec. 16 -- "NICE COLORED GIRLS" directed by Tracy Moffat (Australia)

On Thursday, Nov. 17, 7pm, Rm. 66-110 at 25 Ames St., MIT, NELLIE MCKAY will give a lecture entitled "Toni Morrison and Her Critics"

On Thursday, Dec. 15, 4pm Rm. E38-615, 272 Main St. MIT, ANITA NESIAH will discuss "Women and the Use of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience in Sri Lanka"

## FUNDRAISING REVIEW

Many first time callers and visitors to the Women's Center are interested in joining a particular group and apprehensively inquire about how much it will cost. Frequently, upon hearing that there is no charge, their relief is evident. One of the tenants of the Women's Center's philosophy is that no women should be excluded from any Center activities due to an inability to pay. While groups may request donations, there is no fee. This enables all women to participate fully in any group or activity of the Women's Center.

It is through the generosity of foundations, businesses and individuals that the Women's Center has been able to continue and expand it's services over the past 17 years.

We'd like to give our readers a fundraising review of the last fiscal year, July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has funded us. During fiscal year 1987-88, the Women's Center received \$22,000 from foundations, corporations and small businesses for general operating expenses. The Center also received \$6,225 in individual donations. Twenty-two percent of our funding for operating expenses came from individual donations. We are proud to have the financial support of so many individuals. Each donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated.

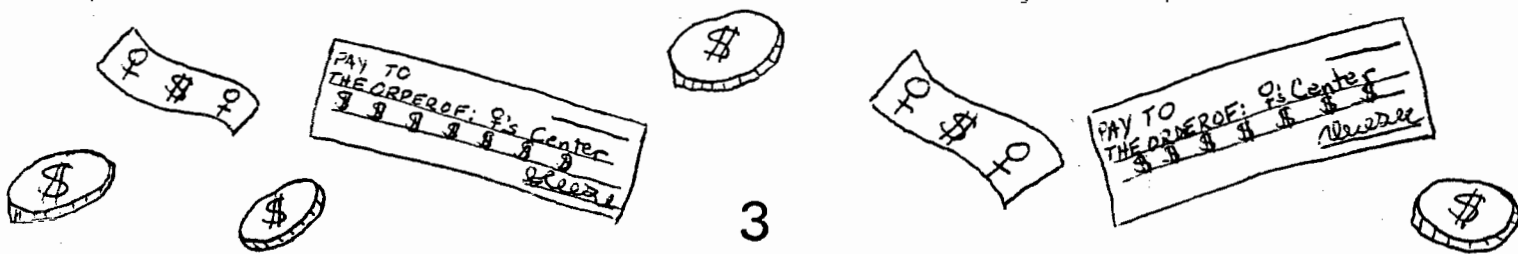
Additionally, approximately 100 women volunteered thousands of dollars worth of labor to run the Center's programs. Every aspect of the Women's Center depends upon volunteers. Without our volunteers, there would be no Women's Center.

The Women's Center faces a fundraising challenge in the years ahead. We would like to expand our paid staff in the near future as there is simply too much to be done. This will markedly increase our expenses. As many women who come to the Center know, one over-extended and truly dedicated volunteer presently coordinates other volunteers, as well as having numerous other responsibilities (Yes, you guessed it, Judy Norris!) Understandably, she would like to work less than 60 hours a week, and soon!

The Women's Center is hoping to increase the number of individual donors within the next 3-5 years and then embark on an endowment campaign. Interest from the money received would be used for operating expenses, enabling Women's Center staff to spend less time on fundraising and more time on programs. It would also provide a yearly, guaranteed source of income.

Below is a list of the foundations, corporations and businesses which have contributed to the Center during the last fiscal year. Unfortunately, we don't have the space to list each individual who has sent in a donation. Thanks to everyone!

Badger Engineers, Inc.  
Bioran Medical Lab  
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.  
Cambridge Optometric Associates  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
Cambridge Trust Company  
Cambridgeport Bank  
Central War Surplus  
Clipper Ship Foundation  
Coolidge Bank & Trust Company  
Marion L. Decrow Memorial Foundation  
Digital Equipment Corporation  
Duracell, Inc.  
East Cambridge Savings Bank  
GTE Laboratories, Inc.  
The Gillette Company  
Charles & Sara Goldberg Charitable Trust  
Hartford Insurance Group  
Harvard Cooperative Society  
Harvard University  
Houghton Chemical Corporation  
Houghton Mifflin Company  
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance  
Joyce Chen Restaurant  
Legal Seafoods, Inc.  
Agnes M. Lindsay Trust  
Lotus Development Corporation  
New Words, Inc.  
Norman & Eleanor Rabb Charitable Fdn.  
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund  
Raytheon  
Shawmut County Bank  
Travelers Companies  
Union Warren Savings Bank  
US Trust Middlesex  
Waldenbooks  
Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation  
Workingmens Cooperative Bank



**ONGOING GROUPS**

SUNDAY

-Deaf Women's Community Project....2-4pm  
(3rd Sunday, monthly)

MONDAY

-Support for Battered Women.....7:30-9pm  
\*New Women's Chorus.....7-10pm  
-Lesbian Rap.....8-10pm  
-Boston Bisexual Women's.....7:30-9:45pm  
Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #d months)  
-All-Center Meeting.....6-8pm  
(biweekly)  
-Disabled Women Who are.....6-8pm  
Survivors of Sexual Abuse

TUESDAY

-Discussion Group for Deaf...7:30-9:30pm  
Incest Survivors (2nd,4th Tues, monthly)  
-Women for Sobriety.....8-9:30pm  
-For Crying Out Loud.....7pm  
-Bisexual Rap.....7:30-10pm

WEDNESDAY

-Feminist Discussion Group.....8-10pm  
-Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare)....6:30-8pm  
-Writer's Support.....7:30-9:30pm  
-Politics of Fat (biweekly)..7:30-9:30pm  
-Lesbian Partners of Incest.....8-9:30pm  
Survivors (biweekly)  
-Healing Through Art for.....7-10pm  
Incest Survivors (1st Wed., monthly)

THURSDAY

-Birthmothers (1st,3rd Thur).7:30-9:30pm  
-Open Discussion for Incest..7:30-9:30pm  
Survivors (3rd Thursday is facilitated)  
-Lesbians Choosing Children....7:30-10pm  
Network (2nd Thursday, monthly)  
\*Women's School.....7:30-10pm

SATURDAY

-Writer's Support Group.....noon-2pm  
\* means group is not currently open

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MONTHLY FACILITATED DROP-IN INCEST  
SURVIVORS DISCUSSION GROUPS: Every  
third Thursday of the month 7:30-9:15 pm  
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November 17 Self-destructive behavior:  
Self-mutilation and  
substance abuse  
December 15 Taking care of ourselves:  
Nurturing & self-protection  
January 19 Intimate relationships  
February 16 Confrontation & life  
after confrontation

\* These groups are open only to women  
incest survivors. Women without clear mem-  
ories are welcome. Please arrive on time.



**CENTER HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
Coffeehouse 8pm - midnight  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

**LESBIAN RAP**

Mondays, 8-10pm  
November 14 Internalized Homophobia  
21 Recovering From Rape  
28 Lesbians and Friendships

**FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP** Wednesdays, 8-10pm

November 16 Sisterhood: Lesbians and  
Straight Women  
23 Motherhood: Should We Do It?  
30 Sonia Johnson's 'Transcending  
Oppression': Who Can Do It?  
December 7 Mothers and Grandmothers:  
Where Are Our Paths?  
14 Divorce and Separation  
21 Getting Caught in Blaming  
28 Holidays & Families

**WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE**

EVERY Friday, 8pm-12 midnight  
November 18 Music & poetry with Helen  
Kohane & Karon Friedland on  
the themes of Women, Earth &  
Creativity.  
25 Seattle Native American  
Activist and Writer Crystos  
reading from her newly  
published book, Not  
Vanishing.  
December 2 Women's Floating Loft  
presents 'Multimedia Art  
Show' (artists --call Ellen  
at 354-6804 to arrange to  
show your work). Also open  
for viewing Dec 3, 10am-5pm  
9 Ericka Wheeler of Northampton  
sings her original folk songs  
(tentative)  
16 Pat Humphries (tentative)  
23 Coffeehouse closed  
30 Coffeehouse closed

**BISEXUAL RAP**

Tuesdays, 7:30-10pm  
November 15 - Spirituality  
November 22 - Cultural/Racial Backgrounds  
November 29 - Erotica  
December 6 - Relationships: Men vs. Women  
December 13 - Bisexuality & Family



## INCEST LEGACY

Only recently have women been able to speak out about the widespread prevalence of incest and its devastating impact. Staff at the Women's Center have seen an incredible growth in the number of incest survivors who call and come to the Center, and a marked change in their degree of openness. Only a couple of years ago, women who called for information about the Drop-in Discussion Groups for Incest Survivors asked obliquely about the "group on Thursday night." Now women call and freely inquire about the groups for incest survivors. The Women's Center gets several calls per day from survivors of child sexual abuse who call for referrals, information, or to talk. Five years ago when Incest Resources began holding drop-in discussion groups for survivors, around 10 women would attend. Today, the facilitated incest groups are held in 2 overcrowded rooms, each containing between 30-35 women. The legacy of an incest history includes persistent nightmares, fear of intimacy, substance abuse, chronic fatigue, depression, suicidal thoughts and impulses, self-destructive behavior, physical illness, problems with sexuality, terror, shame, low self-esteem, and more. In addition, survivors continue to contend with social stigma; frequently family and friends demonstrate a lack of awareness of and sensitivity to their experience.

Feminist consciousness was necessary in order for survivors of child sexual abuse to tell their stories. Feminism counteracted many of the harmful assumptions of psychoanalysis, offered an analysis and critique of patriarchal families, and argued (with much solid data and verbal eloquence) that sexual abuse was no fantasy. Feminist awareness enables incest survivors to overcome their years of actual and internalized oppression, to create an identity and a community, and to feel an individual and collective sense of pride. The Women's Center has been a vehicle for the development and expansion of feminist consciousness. It is not surprising, then, that it is here, at the Women's Center, that survivors do so much to help themselves and each other.

## DISABLED SURVIVORS

Disabled Women who are survivors of child sexual abuse...a weekly support group began MONDAY, November 7...6-8pm at the Women's Center. Call 354-8907 for more information, and leave a message for Helen. Wheelchair accessible.

## SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

The Women's Center receives more and more calls from incest survivors. This is due at least in part, to the fact that the Women's Center's phone number is in the resources section of the book The Courage to Heal by Ellen Bass and Laura Davis. The book, written for survivors of child sexual abuse, has received acclaim by survivors, researchers and therapists in the field and is already in its 4th printing. Women from as far away as Colorado and Florida have called the Center looking for resources. We have also received a couple of calls from ritual abuse survivors. (Ritual abuse is severe physical and sexual abuse, performed at rituals by satanic cults.)

In response to the increasing number of phone calls, a staff training on incest was held by members of Incest Survivors Network. The focus of their presentation was on talking to survivors who call the Women's Center in crisis. While the ISN members noted that staff do not need to be experts on survivor issues to effectively support a survivor, they did highlight several areas which are particularly important to survivors. These included recovering memories, coping mechanisms commonly employed by survivors, and issues involved in therapy.

Below is a listing of groups, organizations and other resources for incest survivors and their families, friends & partners at the Women's Center.

- \*\* Drop-in Discussion Groups (unfacilitated & facilitated) for hearing & deaf incest survivors
- \*\* Healing Through Art
- \*\* Support group for survivors with disabilities
- \*\* Incest Survivors Network
- \*\* Survivors Newsletter Collective (publishes 'For Crying Out Loud')
- \*\* Discussion group for lesbian partners of incest survivors
- \*\* Notebook with referrals for survivors: Self-help & therapy groups, therapists, retreats, etc.



THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

NON-PROFIT-ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE

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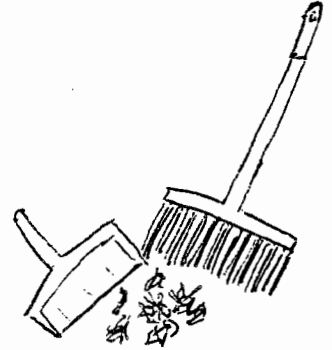
Boston, MA  
PERMIT NO. 59699

Address Correction Requested



**CHORUS AUDITIONS**

New Women's Chorus will be holding auditions this fall. Interested women should call Debbie Dover 244-4361.



**CLEAN SWEEP**

With 100 or so women coming to the Women's Center for meetings each evening, cups, plates, newspapers, and flyers are left in various parts of the house, and chairs and tables are moved to different rooms and not put back. Since there is no clean up crew here, we ask that each woman clean up after herself, so the next group using the room will find it uncluttered. The Center staff has plenty to do without cleaning up after other women. When you're at the Center, please do your part to keep it neat and clean. Thanks!

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE INFO**

Concerned about recent events in Israel and the Occupied Territories? Join Mobilization for Survival's Crash Course on the US and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. In four hours, you will get an introduction to the history of the conflict and some insights into the current crisis. The free course will be Saturday, December 17th, 10am-2pm at the Women's Center. For info, call 354-0008.

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Your contribution helps the Women's Center to accomplish a great deal for women.  
EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!! MANY THANKS

Yes - I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution.

\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Rather than contribute now I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

We sometimes gives our mailing list to other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.

\_\_\_ Please do not give out my name to other organizations.

